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REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following discussion. The telephone interview held between attorneys of record and Examiner Clow is acknowledged with appreciation. Briefly, in that interview, the 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph rejections were discussed along with the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1 to 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reason that it is unclear if there are one or two databases, namely, the patient identification database and database recited in the preamble. Claim 1 has been amended to make clear that the patient identification information is stored on the database recited in the preamble. In other words, there is only one database recited in the claim. Claim 2 has been amended to refer to "additional patient information" that is stored in the one database.

The Examiner concurred that the proposed amendments to claim 1 should overcome her §112 rejection as well as her rejection based on Brodheim which discloses several different databases networked together as opposed to a single database.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 to 8, 10 to 26 and 28 to 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brodheim in view of Safwenberg et al. The Examiner has taken the position that Brodheim teaches automation of blood banking procedures including the availability of centralized information pertaining to available blood products from a donor blood bank, transfer to remote facilities and performing compatibility testing specifically in relation to claims 1, 10 to 20, 25, 26, 29 and 30. However, the Examiner recognized that Brodheim does not specifically teach remote serological cross-matching of a blood specimen and a segment to determine compatibility.

Brodheim teaches an automated system of blood banking having multiple databases. Brodheim does not teach remote serological cross-matching nor does it suggest utilization of a single database. The Examiner cited Safwenburg as teaching remote serological cross-matching. Safwenburg specifically discloses compatibility testing using the ABCD test involving computerized testing of a known specimen. The ABCD test of Safwenburg may only be used when you have pre-existing files on the patient's serological information. Patients with antibodies and red cell antigens, for example, cannot be processed through the ABCD test system.

Further, Safwenburg does not teach or suggest remote serological cross-matching of an actual segment of blood or blood

products to determine compatibility. Claims 1, 10, 20 and 29, as amended, all claim remote serological cross-matching of each segment and blood specimen.

Finally, neither Brodheim nor Safwenburg teach use of a single database. There is lacking any suggestion in Brodheim to combine multiple databases into a single database. The Examiner provisionally concurred that Brodheim does not teach a single database nor does it teach remote serological cross-matching. The Examiner also concurred that Safwenburg does not teach remote serological cross-matching of a segment and blood specimen but is merely a system of computerized cross-matching of known specimens.

It is therefore urged that the claims as now presented for consideration are in allowable condition and action to that end is courteously solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved, it is requested that the Examiner contact attorney for applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment is being forwarded by facsimile to MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, this 15th day of December, 2006.

Sherry J. Robertson